

Proposed Changes to Attachment 4: Glossary (San Bernardino County Draft MS4 Permit)

Effluent Limitation - ~~Limitations on the volume of each waste discharge, and the quantity and concentrations of pollutants in the discharge. The limitations are designed to ensure that the discharge does not cause water quality objectives to be exceeded in the receiving water and does not adversely affect beneficial uses.~~

~~Effluent limitations are limitations of the quantity and concentrations of pollutants in a discharge. The limitations are designed to ensure that the discharge does not cause water quality objectives to be exceeded in the receiving water and does not adversely affect beneficial uses. In other words, an effluent limit is the maximum concentration of a pollutant that a discharge can contain. To meet effluent limitations, the effluent typically must undergo one or more forms of treatment to remove pollutants in order to lower the pollutant concentration below the limit. Effluent limits are typically numeric (e.g., 10 mg/l), but can also be narrative (e.g., no toxics in toxic amounts).~~

~~means any restriction on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of pollutants which are discharged from point sources into Waters of the United States, waters of the “contiguous zone,” or the ocean.~~

~~[This definition is consistent with 40 CFR §122.2]~~

Green Infrastructure ~~—management approaches and technologies that utilize, enhance and/or mimic the natural hydrologic cycle processes of infiltration, evapotranspiration and reuse.”⁹⁶ (USEPA 2008). Green infrastructure approaches currently in use include green roofs, trees and tree boxes, rain gardens, vegetated swales, pocket wetlands, infiltration planters, porous and permeable pavements, vegetated median strips, reforestation/revegetation, and protection and enhancement of riparian buffers and floodplains. Green infrastructure is used interchangeably with low impact development (LID). See LID.~~

~~generally refers to technologically feasible and cost-effective systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire, or reuse stormwater or runoff on the site where it is generated.~~

Low Impact Development (LID) ~~-A storm water management and land development strategy that combines a hydrologically functional site design with pollution prevention measures to compensate for land development impacts on hydrology and water quality. The approach emphasizes conservation and the use of on-site natural features integrated with engineered, small-scale hydrologic controls to more closely reflect pre-development hydrologic functions. Low Impact Development methods mimic the predevelopment site hydrology by using site design techniques that store, infiltrate, evaporate, and detain runoff. Low impact development and green infrastructure are used interchangeably. LID is an innovative storm water management approach with a basic principle that is modeled after nature: manage rainfall at the source using site design techniques that store, infiltrate, bio-treat, evaporate and detain runoff. LID's goal is to~~

mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, bio-treat, store, evaporate and detain runoff close to its source. A goal of LID is to use site and subdivision design techniques in coordination with storm water management engineering to mimic the hydrologic conditions associated with an undeveloped site.

LID principles are based on controlling stormwater at the source by the use of microscale controls that are distributed throughout the site. This is unlike conventional approaches that typically convey and manage runoff in large facilities located at the base of drainage areas. These multifunctional site designs incorporate alternative storm water management practices such as functional landscape that act as storm water facilities, flatter grades, depression storage and open drainage swales. This system of controls can reduce or eliminate the need

comprises a set of technologically feasible and cost-effective approaches and practices that are designed to reduce runoff of water and pollutants from the site at which they are generated. By means of infiltration, evapotranspiration, and reuse of rainwater, LID techniques manage water and water pollutants at the source. LID and Green Infrastructure are used interchangeably.

[This definition is taken largely from EPA document titled "Reducing Stormwater Costs through Low-Impact Development Strategies and Practices." December 2007, EPA 841-F-07-006].

Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) - MEP is an acronym for "Maximum Extent Practicable" and refers to the standard for implementation of storm water management programs. Section 402(p)(3)(B)(iii) of the Clean Water Act requires that municipal storm water permits "shall require controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, including management practices, control techniques, and system design and engineering methods, and such other provisions as the Administrator or the State determines appropriate for the control of such pollutants." In practice, compliance with the MEP standard is evaluated by how well the Permittee implements the "minimum measures" identified by EPA, including: (1) Public education and outreach on storm water impacts; (2) Public involvement/participation; (3) Illicit discharge detection and elimination; (4) Construction site storm water runoff control; (5) Post-construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment; and (6) Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations. Collectively, these minimum measures are often referred to as "Best Management Practices" or BMPs. The MEP standard does not require Permittees to reduce pollutant concentrations below natural background levels, nor does it necessarily require further reductions where pollutant concentrations in the receiving water already meet water quality objectives. In implementing the MEP standard, it is appropriate for Permittees to prioritize their resource allocation to address the storm water pollution problems that pose the greatest and most immediate threat to human health or the environment. MEP is a technology-based standard established by Congress in CWA section 402(p)(3)(B)(iii) that operators of MS4s must meet. Technology-based standards establish the level of pollutant reductions that dischargers must achieve, typically by treatment or by a combination of source control and treatment control BMPs. MEP generally emphasizes pollution prevention and source control BMPs primarily (as the first line of defense) in combination with treatment methods serving as a backup (additional line of defense). MEP considers economics and is generally, but not necessarily, less stringent than BAT. A definition for MEP is not provided either in the statute or in the regulations. Instead the definition of MEP is dynamic and will be defined by the

following process over time: municipalities propose their definition of MEP by way of their urban runoff management programs. Their total collective and individual activities conducted pursuant to the urban runoff management programs becomes their proposal for MEP as it applies both to their overall effort, as well as to specific activities (e.g., MEP for street sweeping, or MEP for MS4 maintenance). In the absence of a proposal acceptable to the Regional Board, the Regional Board defines MEP.

In a memo dated February 11, 1993, entitled "Definition of Maximum Extent Practicable," Elizabeth Jennings, Senior Staff Counsel, SWRCB addressed the achievement of the MEP standard as follows:

"To achieve the MEP standard, municipalities must employ whatever Best Management Practices (BMPs) are technically feasible (i.e., are likely to be effective) and are not cost prohibitive. The major emphasis is on technical feasibility. Reducing pollutants to the MEP means choosing effective BMPs, and rejecting applicable BMPs only where other effective BMPs will serve the same purpose, or the BMPs would not be technically feasible, or the cost would be prohibitive. In selecting BMPs to achieve the MEP standard, the following factors may be useful to consider:

—— Effectiveness: Will the BMPs address a pollutant (or pollutant source) of concern?
—— Regulatory Compliance: Is the BMP in compliance with storm water regulations as well as other environmental regulations?

—— Public Acceptance: Does the BMP have public support?

—— Cost: Will the cost of implementing the BMP have a reasonable relationship to the pollution control benefits to be achieved?

—— Technical Feasibility: Is the BMP technically feasible considering soils, geography, water resources, etc?

The final determination regarding whether a municipality has reduced pollutants to the maximum extent practicable can only be made by the Regional or State Water Boards, and not by the municipal discharger. If a municipality reviews a lengthy menu of BMPs and chooses to select only a few of the least expensive, it is likely that MEP has not been met. On the other hand, if a municipal discharger employs all applicable BMPs except those where it can show that they are not technically feasible in the locality, or whose cost would exceed any benefit derived, it would have met the standard. Where a choice may be made between two BMPs that should provide generally comparable effectiveness, the discharger may choose the least expensive alternative and exclude the more expensive BMP. However, it would not be acceptable either to reject all BMPs that would address a pollutant source, or to pick a BMP base solely on cost, which would be clearly less effective. In selecting BMPs the municipality must make a serious attempt to comply and practical solutions may not be lightly rejected. In any case, the burden would be on the municipal discharger to show compliance with its permit. After selecting a menu of BMPs, it is the responsibility of the discharger to ensure that all BMPs are implemented."

is not defined in the CWA; it refers to management practices, control techniques, and system design and engineering methods for the control of pollutants taking into account considerations of synergistic, additive, and competing factors, including, but not limited to pollutant removal effectiveness, regulatory compliance, gravity of the problem, public acceptance, social benefits, cost and technological feasibility.

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[This proposed definition is consistent with EPA's February 11, 1993 memo quoted by the Regional Board in the Draft Permit]

Municipal Separate Stormsewer System (M4) - MS4 is an acronym for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System is a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, natural drainage features or channels, modified natural channels, man-made channels, or storm drains): (i) Owned or operated by a State, city town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, storm water, or other wastes, ~~including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States;~~ (ii) Designated or used for collecting or conveying storm water; (iii) Which is not a combined sewer; (iv) Which is not part of the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.26.

~~Historic and current developments make use of natural drainage patterns and features as conveyances for urban runoff. Urban streams used in this manner are part of the municipalities MS4 regardless of whether they are natural, man-made, or partially modified features. In these cases, the urban stream is both an MS4 and a receiving water.~~

[The deleted section does not appear in the definition of "Municipal Separate Storm Sewer" in 40 CFR § 122.26(b)(8). The Regional Board also cited to the incorrect section of the CFR.]

Numeric Effluent Limitations (NEL) -~~The typical method by which effluent limits are prescribed for pollutants in waste discharge requirements implementing the federal NPDES regulations. When numeric effluent limits are met at the "end of pipe," the effluent discharge generally will not cause water quality standards to be exceeded in the receiving waters (i.e., water quality standards will also be met):~~ a quantitative limitation on pollutant concentrations or levels to protect beneficial uses and water quality objectives of a water body.

[Although there is no definition of "numeric effluent limitation" in the CWA or its implementing regulations in 40 CFR Part 122 et seq, I believe this is an accurate definition.]

Storm Water - Per 40 CFR 122.26(b)(13), means storm water runoff, snowmelt runoff and surface runoff and drainage. ~~"Storm water" is defined as urban runoff and snowmelt runoff consisting only of those discharges which originate from precipitation events. Storm water is that portion of precipitation that flows across a surface to the storm drain system or receiving waters. Examples of this phenomenon include: the water that flows off a building's roof when it rains (runoff from an impervious surface); the water that flows into streams when snow on the ground begins to melt (runoff from a semi pervious surface); and the water that flows from a vegetated surface when rainfall is in excess of the rate at which it can infiltrate into the underlying soil (runoff from a pervious surface). When all factors are equal, runoff increases as the perviousness of a surface decreases. During precipitation events in urban areas, rain water picks up and transports pollutants through storm water conveyance systems, and ultimately to waters of the United States.~~

[The deleted portions of the definition do not appear in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(13).]

Toxicity -Adverse responses of organisms to chemicals or physical agents ranging from mortality to physiological responses such as impaired reproduction or growth anomalies. ~~The water quality objectives for toxicity provided in the Water Quality Control Plan, Santa Ana River Basin, Region 8, (Basin Plan), state in part... "All waters shall be free of toxic substances in concentrations that are toxic to, or that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, plant, animal, or aquatic life....The survival of aquatic life in surface waters subjected to a waste discharge or other controllable water quality factors, shall not be less than that for the same water body in areas unaffected by the waste discharge".~~

[The deleted section contains superfluous information.]

Water Quality Objective - ~~Numerical or narrative limits on constituents or characteristics of water designated to protect designated beneficial uses of the water. [California Water Code Section 13050 (h)] California's water quality objectives are established by the State/Regional Water Boards in the Water Quality Control Plans.~~

~~As stated in the Porter Cologne Requirements for discharge (CWC 13263): "(Waste discharge) requirements shall implement any relevant water quality control plans that have been adopted, and shall take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected, the water objectives reasonably required for that purpose, other waste discharges, the need to prevent nuisance, and the provisions of Section 13241."~~

~~Numeric or narrative limits for pollutants or characteristics of water designed to protect the beneficial uses of the water. In other words, a water quality objective is the maximum concentration of a pollutant that can exist in a receiving water and still generally ensure that the beneficial uses of the receiving water remain protected (Le., not impaired). Since water quality objectives are designed specifically to protect the beneficial uses, when the objectives are violated the beneficial uses are, by definition, no longer protected and become impaired. This is a fundamental concept under the Porter Cologne Act. Equally fundamental is Porter Cologne's definition of pollution. A condition of pollution exists when the water quality needed to support designated beneficial uses has become unreasonably affected or impaired; in other words, when the water quality objectives have been violated. These underlying definitions (regarding beneficial use protection) are the reason why all waste discharge requirements implementing the federal NPDES regulations require compliance with water quality objectives. (Water quality objectives are also called water quality criteria in the Clean Water Act.)~~

means the limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics which are established for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses of water or the prevention of nuisance within a specific area. [California Water Code Section 13050(h)]

[This is the definition of "Water Quality Objective" in Section 13050(h) of the Water Code. The remainder of the Regional Board's definition is superfluous.]